

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE

January 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of Review Case No. C-2008-045R, Tamara G. Robinson

SUBMITTED BY: Charles Easaw, Chief Investigator, Investigative Unit, State Board of Education

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: January 8, 2009

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Tamara G. Robinson applied for a Standard Elementary Education teaching certificate on June 12, 2008. On her application she marked “no” to having ever been arrested. Next to the arrest questions, she had added a notation which read “not within time frame”.

The Investigative Unit discovered she failed to disclose that on September 29, 2003, she was convicted of Extreme Driving Under the Influence. While she was employed as a teacher, she received warnings on November 19, 2004, and January 10, 2005, for being under the influence while working in the classroom. On February 11, 2005, she resigned after her employer drafted a statement of charges in support of termination.

She was notified by the Investigative Unit that her application required a review by the Professional Practices Advisory Committee (“the PPAC”) of the State Board of Education (“the Board”).

On November 13, 2008, the PPAC conducted a review of Ms. Robinson’s application. The following information was considered by the committee:

Ms. Robinson disclosed that she was arrested for Driving Under the Influence on August 7, 2002. She was also under the influence of alcohol while working as a teacher, once in 2004 and once in 2005. She stated she did not consume alcohol at work but drank the night before. In January, 2005, she began attending Alcoholics Anonymous and performed community service. She presently continues to volunteer at an alcohol treatment facility.

The PPAC found the following mitigating factors:

- Large number of letters of recommendations submitted on her behalf
- Continued attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous
- Supporting another treatment center by reaching out to others
- Successfully completing conditions of probation following her conviction
- Employers had full knowledge of her Driving Under the Influence conviction and they supported her because of her high caliber of teaching.
- Her sobriety since 2005

The PPAC found the following aggravating factors:

- Evidence of alcohol abuse that affected her performance at school
- Failing to provide accurate information on her application for renewal
- Charge of felony Driving Under the Influence and Endangerment. Her 10 year old daughter was in the car at the time.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: ☐ INFORMATION ☒ ACTION/DESCRIBED
BELOW:

That the Board accepts the findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendation of the PPAC and **grant Tamara Robinson's** application for certification.

ATTACHMENTS: YES ☒ NO ☐